

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 27-33, 35-37, 39, and 120 are pending in the application, with claims 27 and 120 being the independent claims. Claims 1-26, 34, 38, and 40-119 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claim 27 has been amended and new claims 120-130 are added. The amended and new claims are being entered after the final Office Action in order to comply with the Examiner's requirement that claims 28-33, 35-37 and 39 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended claim 27 to maintain all of the limitations of original claim 27, and to further include limitations of dependent claims 28-33, 35 and 39. Support for amended claim 27 can be found at page 5, paragraph [0014] in the specification.

Applicants have also added claims 120-130. Claim 120 has been written as an independent claim to include all of the limitations of original base claim 27, and to further include limitations of claims 36-37. Support for new claim 120 can be found at page 6, paragraphs [0012] and [0015] in the specification. New claims 121-130 depend from newly added claim 120. Support for new claims 121-130 can be found at page 5, paragraph [0014]; at page 6, paragraph [0015]; at page 30, paragraphs [0094] through [0095]; and in originally filed claim 30.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 27, 34, and 38 under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,194,425. Paper No. 11, page 2. Applicants have cancelled claims 34 and 38 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. The Examiner stated that dependent claims 28-33, 35 and 39 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Paper No. 11, page 3. Applicants have amended claim 27 to maintain all of the limitations of original claim 27, and to further include limitations from dependent claims 28-33, 35 and 39. The rejection under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) is therefore rendered moot. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Objections to Claims 28-33, 35-37, and 39

The Examiner has objected to claims 28-33, 35-37, and 39 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and stated that they "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims." Paper No. 11, page 3.

Applicants have amended claim 27, as noted above, to include limitations of dependent claims 28-33, 35 and 39. Applicants have added new claim 120, written as an

independent claim to include all of the limitations of original base claim 27, and to further include limitations of claims 36-37. New claims 121-130 depend from claim 120.

All of the pending claims include limitations of claims 28-33, 35-37 or 39. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the amended claims and withdraw the objection.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in proper condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Andrea Jo Kamage

Andrea Jo Kamage
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 43,703

Date: August 18, 2003

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

SKGF_DC1:158657.1